7/17/72

Dear Harold,

I am replying to your last large mailing of letters and carbons in a little haste.

By the way, in case you missed it, McGovern, in his acceptance speech, quoted the part of the bible to which you referred me, but attributed it to the music of my generation! Maybe he does not realize there is nothing new under the sun?

When I spoke of "Wecht's latest behavior not befitting anyone who calls himself a man", I had in mind nothing you do not already know. I was thinking of the shitty attitude he has taken with regard to seeing the autopsy stuff, where he is above calling anybody and soliciting the help he thinks he needs, except from the likes of Bob Smith. And I think it very possible that Wecht instilled into Jerry that crap about "crawling" to me.

In your 7/11 to me, top of p. 2, you say, "I'm surprisedyou haven't reprted what I have already detected, theft or misuse of more than you have told me. Let's see if you get it for yourself." I'm lost. To what are you referring here. Nothing comes to my mind. Hints?

If you could, I'd appreciate being filled in on when and how M Johnson alerted Gary (others?) to the d.c. Archives never sent me anything on this, and they usually send me lists of recently declassified. They certainly know my interest in the case.

To my knowledge, Cyril has not yet seen the stuff. When I spoke of "Wecht's access," I meant his getting permission, not his going in. If he has seen yet, I don't know about it, have heard nothing.

I think there are a couple instances where you misunderstood some of the thrust of my memo re the 2nd phone convers. with Sylvia. On what she said about confidentiality, she really indicted herself and, in a tortured way, complimented you. She said, in effect, that you are the only one from who she is unwilling to accept confidences because you are the noyl one who gets upset when your confidences are violated. From the other things she said, like about the d.c., I got the impression that she felt you were also the only one who had anything to tell her that was really important to the case. So, if you consider this in line with her rather corrupted sense of "obligation," whatever you might tell her in confidence she would feel "obligated" to divulge so the public could be informed. I'm not defending, so don't get that impression. I abhor this just as you do. But I want you to understand that this is how I interpret her thinking.

On the Liebeler debate, I did tell her (but forgot to include in my memo) that Liebeler has been silent since your debate with him and has withdrawn his "project" but she said that you have no way of demonstrating that it was the debate which sparked this.

As far as her comment that she never before knew this stuff was in the nads of the WC, she did mention to me the Ex Cess part, without credit to you, but she said that always seemed vague to her and not conclusive. I tol her she was wrong, that it is definite.

With respect to the "change" in Sylvia's thinking, there is a chance you misread me here. I entertain no illusions. The fact is that in this particular conversation she really changed her tone towards you, and even admitted things she would not in the past. I said then, and I still maintain, that she may be exhibiting a little change of heart due to your letter, or she may simply have been acting that way to curry my favor and not antagonize me. Either way, I know that all of a sudden Sylvia is not going to change and become a new person with new outlooks

I will not use the copy of Sylvia's letter to you in any way, or show it to anyone. My main purpose in requesting it was so that I could see exactly

what she had written to you, for I had only your response to what she had written plus her account to me. Her letter is more sorry than I would have gathered from what you wrote. I get the impression that she was really trying to make a play for your sympathies with all she laid on about how much everybody loves you and admires you, plus the distortion that you are, in more or less words, paranoid.

After reading your conf. letter to McGovern re Meany and CIA, I read Morris' "CIA and American Labor," and I can really see what you mean. Judging from the past positions and actions, I would gather much more is at stake than merely McG's promise to probe CIA--the whole for. pol. is at issue, and beyond that, the military spending and priorities.

Best to Lil.

Still,

Edward